Chapter Two

Site History

Introduction

Mount Gilead is a modest mid- to late 18th century vernacular house that began as a tavern and residence. It was strategically located on high ground well suited to the stopping points of early transportation routes in Loudoun County. Originally, Mount Gilead was part of a village known as Newgate formed in the mid-18th century by several speculators and landowners to take advantage of an established trade route—Mountain Road—that led from the Bull Run Mountains to the Occoquan River. In the 1770s, Newgate was known as a crossroads community that boasted a mill, tavern, and store. Illustrious travelers, such as George Washington, were among its visitors. The village continued to grow throughout the 18th century, functioning as a mercantile and industrial center.

In 1790, local landowners petitioned the Virginia Assembly to found a new town on seventy acres of land in the vicinity of Newgate. Initially unsuccessful, the petition was submitted a second time in 1792. This time, the request was approved, and a town named Centerville was established. The name of the town was later changed to Centreville. Centreville quickly became a prosperous mercantile and industrial town with stores, ordinaries, blacksmith shops, and tanneries. Farms, and supportive industries such as mills, lay on the outskirts of the town. Tradition suggests that Centreville may also have been a place where slaves were traded.[1] During the Civil War, Centreville's strategic location witnessed extensive military activities that included the construction of a system of earthen fortifications, and an encampment of log cabins built to accommodate the winter quarters of 40,000 Confederate soldiers. Several local homes and churches were used as hospitals and aid stations during the Civil War and both Mount Gilead and the Grigsby House (otherwise known as Four Chimneys) are said to have housed officers of the Confederate and Union Armies beginning in late 1861.

[1] According to Eugenia B. Smith, the Machens, a local farming family, recorded transactions regarding slave ownership and hiring between 1843 and 1853. Smith also indicates that sales of slaves were held in front of Wapping Store, owned by William and Kathrine Jett and later George Vandiveer, although specific documentation for this is scarce. It is also thought that the Lanes sold convicts. For more information, see Eugenia B. Smith, *Centerville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture* (Fairfax County, VA: Fairfax County Office of Planning, June 1973), 17, 44-45; Maral Kalbian, "Phase 1 Cultural Resources Supplemental Study, Proposed Routes 28/29 Interchange Project" (Fairfax County, VA: Virginia Department of Transportation, June 1995), 5-7. According to Debbie Robison's review comments, the parish chapel was likely located a few miles west from Newgate now identified as across Braddock Road from Stone Intermediate School. Park Authority, 50% draft CLR review comments, November 2005.

Beginning in the 1960s, Centreville began to witness suburban development pressures similar to those experienced by other communities within commuting distance of Washington, D.C. Residential and commercial development began to change the character of the Centreville community. In an effort to protect Centreville's remaining historic resources, Fairfax County established a local zoning Historic Overlay District within the community in 1986. Mount Gilead is at the heart of the historic district.

The narrative that follows documents the evolution of the cultural landscape associated with Mount Gilead and Centreville. Because there remain many gaps in our understanding of the physical development of the community over time, this document includes historic context information about relevant regional trends in agriculture, industry, residential life, and commerce when necessary to help set the property in time and space.

The site physical history of Mount Gilead that comprises this chapter has been organized chronologically into a series of eight discrete historic periods:

- Prehistory to 1720
- Early European Settlement and Establishment of the Village of Newgate, 1720–1792
- Founding of Centreville, a Crossroads Community, 1792–1861
- The Civil War, 1861–1865
- Reconstruction and the Aftermath of the Civil War, 1865–1917
- The Beginnings of Modernity in Centreville, 1917–1937
- The New Deal Era, World War II, and Subsequent Suburban Development, 1937–1969
- Encroaching Suburbanization and the Need to Protect Historic Centreville, 1969–2005

Documentation within each period is based upon review of available sources, the dates of known events, and physical developments that are thought to have significantly altered the character, land use, or spatial patterns of this landscape. A major development typically marks the transition between periods.

Each section conveys what is currently known about physical developments during a period; graphics illustrating points made in the narrative are referenced in the text and are located at the end of each section. Most of the graphics are primary source photographs, maps, plans, and illustrations.

Prehistory to 1720

According to Griffin's 1967 chronology for eastern North America there are three major periods of Native American sites. These periods are referred to as PaleoIndian (ca. 10,000–8,000 BC), Archaic (ca. 8,000–1,200 BC), and Woodland (ca. 1,200 BC–AD

1600). The Archaic and Woodland periods are further divided into three sub-periods—Early, Middle, and Late—that are marked by changes in the stylistic attributes of projectile points and ceramics.[2]

PaleoIndian Period (ca. 10,000–ca. 8,000 BC)

The Middle Atlantic region of the Americas was populated by about 13,000 years ago. The retreat of the continental ice sheets brought a fairly rapid warming trend throughout the Middle Atlantic, a phenomenon directly reflected by the replacement of northern flora and fauna by southern species. Large Pleistocene grazing fauna were, by this point, mostly gone from the region. The woods and open landscape of the area supported a wide range of floral and small faunal species, and human subsistence patterns were characterized by generalized foraging.[3] Archaeological sites dating to this period usually are identified by the presence of fluted stone projectile points, often made of high quality, cryptocrystalline lithic material such as chert or jasper. Archaeologists debate whether coarse-grained stone, such as hornfels, was used for tool manufacture by populations at this time.[4] Relatively few PaleoIndian sites have been reported within the Middle Atlantic region. Fluted point finds are documented in several locations in Fairfax County, in particular in the Upper Cub Run basin.[5]

Archaic Period (ca. 8,000–ca. 1,200 BC)

The traditional Middle Atlantic chronology describes a break in cultural patterns at about 8,000 BC, approximately corresponding with a warming trend that signaled the Boreal climatic episode. The new pattern—referred to as Archaic—is usually recognized as ranging temporally from ca. 8,000 BC to 1,200 BC. It was characterized by an adaptive response to the emergence of the so-called full Holocene environment, which was increasingly like that of the present.[6] Major sub-periods, referred to as Early (ca. 8,000–ca. 6,500 BC), Middle (ca. 6,500–ca. 3,000 BC), and Late (ca. 3,000–ca. 1,200 BC), are recognized within the Archaic period. One of the most important environmental changes affecting prehistoric populations throughout the Middle Atlantic region during the Archaic period was the gradual rise in sea level that accompanied the retreat of the glaciers and resulted in the submersion of large sections of the continental shelf. Among the effects of this inundation on inland locales in areas such as the Cub Run basin were a marked rise in local water tables and a consequent increase in floral and faunal resources in newly formed marsh or wetland areas.[7] Local populations exploited the new floral and faunal resources brought by the transformation of the mixed pine-oak forest to a temperate oak-hemlock deciduous forest.

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[2] Fairfax County Park Authority, "Native American Sites," provided to the CLR team by Richard Sacchi, no date, 1.

[3] As referenced by Richard Sacchi, Fairfax County Park Authority, Wesler et al. 1981; and Michael F. Johnson, "The Prehistory of Fairfax County: An Overview" (Falls Church, VA: Fairfax County Heritage Resources Branch, 1986).

[4] Johnson, "Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance."

[5] Michael F. Johnson, "Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Federal Position of Fairfax County Cain Branch Trunk Sewer" (Fairfax, VA: Fairfax County Archaeological Survey, 1983).

[6] As noted by Richard Sacchi, Fairfax County Park Authority.

[7] As noted by Richard Sacchi, Fairfax County Park Authority from Potter, 1982.

The Early and Middle Archaic artifact assemblages contain a variety of projectile point forms, including Kirk and Palmer;[8] bifurcate types, such as St. Albans, LeCroy, and Kanawha;[9] variously stemmed points, such as Stanly, Guilford and Morrow Mountain;[10] and finally, the side-notched Halifax point.[11] Perhaps the most common point types from these periods throughout northern Virginia are the bifurcate and Lobate forms.[12] Most of the Early and Middle Archaic point types that have been found in northern Virginia were manufactured from hornfels. One of the earliest reported points made from hornfels is a corner-notched Palmer, from the Thunderbird site.[13] Hornfels Lobate points have been reported at the Erin site (44FX1460), a mile west of the Quinn 1 site (44FX2616) on Elklick Branch;[14] at the Langert site (44FX1778), on the east side of Cub Run;[15] and at several sites south and west of Fairfax County in Prince William County.[16] The lithic tool kit during this period was further marked by the appearance of groundstone tools and woodworking tools such as axes, mauls, and adzes. These tools represent the earliest artifactual evidence of extensive plant processing.

The succeeding Late Archaic period was characterized by the replacement of the oak-hemlock forest with an oak-hickory forest environment. The rate of sea level rise slowed, allowing riverine and estuarine environments to stabilize sufficiently to support significant populations of shellfish and runs of anadromous fish. It is widely suggested that the focus of human settlement shifted during the Late Archaic period to these riverine and estuarine locales to take advantage of the increasingly predictable resources they harbored.[17] A marked increase in the number of sites is observed during the Late Archaic period, suggesting both an overall population increase and movement into new environmental zones.[18] The chipped-stone tool kit was dominated by large, broad-bladed, stemmed points, such as Savannah River and Susquehanna, which eventually gave way to a number of smaller, narrower-bladed stemmed points, such as Holmes or Bare Island. A preference of coarse-grained stone, such as quartzite, rhyolite, and locally, hornfels, is

[8] Geoffrey L. Coe, "The Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont" in *Transactions* 54 (Part 5, 1964).
[9] As noted by Richard Sacchi, Fairfax County Park Authority from Broyles 1971.
[10] Coe, "The Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont."
[11] Coe, "The Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont."
[12] Michael F. Johnson, "The Upper Cub Run Complex-Part 1-Site 44FX143 Research Report" (Fairfax, VA: Fairfax County Archaeological Survey, 1983); and Johnson, "The Prehistory of Fairfax County: An Overview;" and as noted by Richard Sacchi, Fairfax County Park Authority from Knepper 1995.
[13] As noted by Richard Sacchi, Fairfax County Park Authority from Gardner 1974: 16; and Johnson 2002: 5.
[14] As noted by Richard Sacchi, Fairfax County Park Authority from Norton, 1989.
[15] As noted by Richard Sacchi, Fairfax County Park Authority from Flannagan, 1992.
[16] M. Petraglia et al., "Prehistoric Occupations in the Piedmont, Archaeological Excavations in Fauquier, Prince William and Loudoun Counties, Virginia," 1993. On file, Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia.
[17] As noted by Richard Sacchi, Fairfax County Park Authority from Catlin et al. 1982; Johnson, "The Prehistory of Fairfax County;" and Gardner 2000.
[18] Randolf Turner, "Population Distribution in the Virginia Coastal Plain, 8,000 B.C. to A.D. 1600," *Archaeology of Eastern North America* 6 (1978).

noted particularly among forms such as Savannah River.[19] By the end of the Late Archaic period, steatite vessels were manufactured and used.[20]

Woodland Period (ca. 1,200 BC–ca. AD 1600)

Around 1,200 BC, techniques for pottery manufacture were introduced across the northern Virginia region. This innovation has traditionally defined the beginning of the Woodland period throughout the Middle Atlantic.[21] The Woodland period is divided into three sub-periods: Early (ca. 1,200 BC to ca. AD 300), Middle (ca. AD 300 to ca. 1000), and Late (ca. AD 1000 to ca. 1600). The first half of the Woodland period corresponds roughly to a climatic episode referred to as the Sub-Atlantic, characterized by a trend toward progressively cooler and wetter conditions in comparison to the preceding Sub-Boreal episode.[22] Modern plant communities became established.[23] The deliberate and intensive foraging strategies of the Late Archaic period appear to have remained unchanged during the early portions of the Woodland period. Nonetheless, there is some evidence for an increase in sedentism, as populations became more efficient in exploiting available resources.[24]

The earliest known ceramic in the area, used from about 1,200 BC to 800 BC, is a steatite-tempered variety referred to as Marcey Creek ware, after its type site on the Potomac River, in Arlington County, Virginia.[25] It was followed by another steatite-tempered ceramic known as Selden Island, which appears in assemblages at about the same time as the sand-and-quartz-tempered Accokeek Creek cord-marked ceramics. Regionally, evidence from the Middle Woodland period suggests greater participation in trade and exchange networks, as well as an apparent increase in societal complexity. Both of these processes are inferred from the appearance of exotic lithic raw materials, as well as of artifacts and burial ceremonialism associated with cultures from the Mississippi and Ohio River Valleys and from the northeastern and Middle Atlantic areas of North America. Evidence of Middle Woodland period burial ceremonialism can be found as close by as Washington, D.C.[26]

Ceramics from the period include the Albemarle series, consisting of a variety of grit- or crushed-rock-tempered wares with cord-marked or fabric-impressed exteriors. A regional type, Culpeper ware, has been noted on several sites with Middle Woodland components

[19] As noted by Richard Sacchi, Fairfax County Park Authority from McLearan 1991: 93; and Johnson 2002: 13.
[20] As noted by Richard Sacchi, Fairfax County Park Authority from McLearan 1991: 93; and Johnson 2002: 13.
[21] As noted by Richard Sacchi, Fairfax County Park Authority from Reinhart and Hodges 1992.
[22] As noted by Richard Sacchi, Fairfax County Park Authority from Carbone 1976.
[23] J.F. Custer, *Delaware Prehistoric Archaeology: An Ecological Approach* (Newark, DE: University of Delaware Press, 1984).
[24] As noted by Richard Sacchi, Fairfax County Park Authority from Gardner 1982.
[25] Carl Manson, "Marcey Creek Site: An Early Manifestation in the Potomac Valley," in *American Antiquity* 13 (3, 1948).
[26] Custer, *Delaware Prehistoric Archaeology;* and Elizabeth A. Crowell and Stephen R. Potter, "Prehistoric Landscapes of the Nation's Capital," 2000, http://www.nps.gov/rap/exhibit/rocr/text/WHOO.htm (accessed December 2005).

in Fairfax County.[27] Later, after AD 200, a shell-tempered, cord-marked or net-impressed ceramic, referred to as Mockley, appears. In some areas, rhyolite, typically from sources in the Great Valley near Catoctin and Gettysburg, was the preferred lithic raw material for stone tool manufacture. To the north and east of the Chesapeake Bay, argillite appears to have held the same role. It is not known at present if hornfels fit this pattern locally, due to a lack of data from Middle Woodland contexts.

By the Late Woodland period, horticulture began to achieve a significant role in the subsistence system of most populations across the Middle Atlantic region.[28] Large, semi-permanent and permanent villages occurred, with an increase in the number and size of storage facilities and house patterns. Sites appear to have been oriented toward riverine settings. A shift is noted to the primary reliance on locally available lithic resources rather than exotic types, while non-local influences on mortuary practices disappeared, both observations implying a breakdown of the extensive trade and exchange networks operating during the earlier portions of the Woodland period.[29] Smaller, less permanent sites continued to occur in a variety of settings, and wild food remains at all site types attest to a pattern of focused collecting that persisted throughout the period. Ceramic types from the Late Woodland period include sand-tempered Potomac Creek, shell-tempered Townsend, Keyser, and Page, and less frequently, limestone-tempered Page and Radford wares. Diagnostic lithic artifacts include a series of triangular projectile points, found commonly in the Cub Run basin. Although cryptocrystalline rock—chert and jasper—appears to have been the preferred lithic material for point manufacture, material selection was opportunistic at times, and included coarse-grained metamorphic rock, such as quartzite and hornfels.[30]

The Eastern deciduous forest first described by early visitors and settlers of the Atlantic Coast region of America is thought to have dominated much of the landscape until the 1600s. Deciduous woodland species such as oaks, chestnuts, and hickories on the uplands, and mesic and hydric species such as maples, yellow poplar, beech, and sycamore in the lower lying areas, towered over a highly layered and dense plant community that supported a variety of wildlife.[31]

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[27] L.E. Moore, "Early Prehistory of the Upper Wolf Trap Drainage" (Paper presented at the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference, Ocean City, Maryland, 1990); and A. Cherryman, "The Prehistory of Fairfax County: Archaeological Investigations at the Bacardi Site (44FX6)" (Unpublished report on file, Heritage Resources Branch, Fairfax County Office of Comprehensive Planning, Falls Church, Virginia, 1998).

[28] As noted by Richard Sacchi, Fairfax County Park Authority from Reinhart and Hodges 1992.

[29] As noted by Richard Sacchi, Fairfax County Park Authority from Kavanaugh 1983; and J.F. Custer, *Prehistoric Cultures of the Delmarva Peninsula: An Archaeological Study* (Newark, DE: University of Delaware Press, 1989).

[30] Fairfax County Park Authority, "Native American Sites."

[31] Plant species that characterized the upland woodlands most certainly included a variety of oaks (white—*Quercus alba,* Northern red—*Q. rubra,* chestnut—*Q. prinus,* black—*Q. velutina,* post—*Q. stellata,* and blackjack—*Q. marilandica*), American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), which has since been all but eradicated from Eastern forests by blight, hickories (*Carya spp.);* understory species include flowering dogwood—*Cornus florida*, sassafras—*Sassafras albidum*, redbud—*Cercis canadensis*, American holly—*Ilex opaca*, black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*), and mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*). Clearings in the canopy were typically colonized by pines (*Pinus virginiana, P. taeda*), black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), and Eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*). Lowlands were characterized by maples (*Acer negundo, A. rubrum*), oaks including swamp white (*Q. bicolor*), and pin (*Q.*

By the time of European settlement in Jamestown, the Native Americans in Virginia and Maryland had developed complex societies. Fairfax County consisted of three major groups of Native Americans: the Powhatan Chiefdom, the Manahoak, and the Iroquois. The Powhatan Chiefdom was situated in the James and York River Coastal Plain; the Powhatan had some control over the Algonquian-speaking Indians of the upper reaches of the Potomac Coastal Plain, and the Manahoak and other Siouan-speaking Indians occupied the interior Piedmont south of the Potomac River watershed. The Iroquois quite often entered the Potomac watershed for trade and plunder.[32]

John Smith encountered Algonquian-speaking Indians along the southwestern shore of the Potomac River in June 1608; all except the Dogue Indians were hostile. It is believed that the Native Americans that occupied the Newgate area were Dogue Indians. Primarily agrarian, the Dogues lived in villages near streams and cleared fields for growing corn, beans, pumpkins, cucumbers, potatoes and tobacco; their diet was supplemented with deer, turkey, and skunk. Taking advantage of their proximity to the Potomac and its abundance of fish, the Dogues became traders. This activity eventually caused their downfall, however, as they found themselves caught between different Indian groups, each attempting to dominate trade in the area. [33]

The archaeological recovery of artifacts suggests that Newgate was primarily used by early gatherers/agrarians and not by hunters. Three most commonly found worked stones—basalt, quartz and rhyolite—and their dispersal throughout the area indicate the possibility that two distinct groups used the Newgate site. One group appears to have been highly advanced in rock working, producing Mockley ceramics and probably occupying the site for an extended period. Other groups appear to have stayed for only a short duration, as reflected in the small number of lithic materials recovered.

Once Europeans began to explore the area, the Native Americans had little hope of continuing their occupation. Initially, European impact on the land of the Dogue Indians had more to do with paper transactions that divided up the land without regard to existing habitation than with physical settlement. However, early records indicate sporadic settlement in areas close to transportation routes, the rivers in particular.[34]

In 1649, the Northern Neck of Virginia, which comprises some five million acres and included current Fairfax County, was given to a group of English noblemen, who were supporters of Charles II of England, as a proprietary.[35] The grant encompassed the land

palustris), yellow poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), elm (*Ulmus spp.*), and willow (*Salix spp.*). Understory species included spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), azalea (*Rhododendron spp.*), and redosier (*Cornus spp.)*.

[32] Michael F. Johnson, "The Prehistory of Fairfax County, An Overview," 7, quoted in Kim Nguyen et al., "A History of Fairfax County Native Americans Specifically Seen Through the Excavation of the Newgate Apartments Site (44FX1118)." Unpublished manuscript at the Fairfax County Archaeological Services Archives, 1985.

[33] Nguyen et al., "A History of Fairfax County Native Americans," 17-19.

[34] Rhys Isaac, *The Transformation of Virginia, 1740-1790* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1982), 11-15.

[35] Proprietorship meant having the right to give, grant, or by any other means sell or alienate these lands.

between the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers, most of which had never been mapped. Between 1653 and 1730, Westmoreland, Stafford, and Prince William Counties were formed within the proprietary, and in 1742 the remaining land was designated as Fairfax County. It was most likely named for Thomas, the sixth Lord Fairfax.

In 1757, the Virginia House of Burgesses passed an act dividing Fairfax County. The western portion was named Loudoun for John Campbell, Fourth Earl of Loudoun, a Scottish nobleman who served as Commander-in-Chief for all British armed forces in North America and titular Governor of Virginia from 1756 to 1768.[36]

Upon Lord Fairfax's death, the proprietorship, as originally granted by the English crown, ceased to exist. His lands were left in the hands of grantees, and the rest of the original property came under the control of the Commonwealth of Virginia (*see figure 2-1*).[37]

Early European Settlement and Establishment of Newgate, 1720–1792

The natural systems and features of the area around Mount Gilead were an important factor in attracting settlement. Gently rising highlands watered by springs and creeks that flowed into Bull Run formed a landscape that was fertile for agricultural production and allowed development of a transportation system along the network of creeks. A former Indian trail connected the Occoquan River to a pass in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Settlers usually referred to the pass as William's Gap, but is also later known as Snicker's Gap. The trail was eventually improved to allow passage of wagons and hogsheads of tobacco. The village of Newgate was founded along this trail, which was initially referred to as Mountain Road, and later became Braddock Road.

In 1717, Walter Griffin, Jr., and Benjamin Griffin owned land patents in the amount of 350 acres "lying on the head branches of Pope's Head Run and between the uppermost great forke of the sd. Run…"[38] Walter Griffin established a road near his property by 1729. It was called Walter Griffin's Rolling Road, an indication that the Griffins were growing tobacco on their property. The route started at Ox Road and headed west and northwest. By 1739, it was extended to cross Little Rocky Run, Big Rocky Run, Round Lick Branch, Flat Lick Run, and Salisbury Plain Run through the future site of Centreville. A survey made by James Thomas of Willoughby Newton's land in 1743 indicates a route named the Mountain Road, which is likely the beginnings of Griffin's Rolling Road (*see figure 2-2*). The survey shows the creeks as substantial waterways that feed into the settled areas, suggesting the importance they had as deciding factors in

[36] Loudoun County Government, "A History of Loudoun County, Virginia," http://www.loudoun.gov/tourism/history.htm (accessed December 12, 2005).
[37] Nan Netherton, Donald Sweig, et al., *Fairfax County, Virginia, A History* (Fairfax, VA: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, 1992), 5-8; for a clear description of grants and proprietaries in the Northern Neck see Beth Mitchell, *Beginning at a White Oak* (Fairfax, VA: Fairfax County Administrative Series, 1979), 1-10.
[38] Northern Neck Grants, Book 5, 199, April 3, 1719, Virginia State Archives, Richmond, VA, quoted in Smith, *Centreville, Virginia Its History and Architecture*, 3.

development of the land. The 1743 survey of Willoughby Newton's land shows the Rolling Road extending to the north end of the Bull Run Mountains.

Another map, attributed to Thomas Jefferson and dated 1787, indicates Newgate as somewhat isolated but within reach of a branch of the Occoquan River (*see figure 2-3*).

The Truro Parish Vestry Book referred to this same road between 1745 and 1898 as the Mountain Road, appearing to refer specifically to the stretch beginning west of Ox Road and ending at the north end of the Bull Run Mountains.[39] Griffin's Road was to prove a seminal route in the development of the area. Forming part of later day Braddock Road, Griffin Road followed Ox Road (present-day Route 123) west.

During the early period of settlement, the amount of traffic that passed along a road influenced the type of development that evolved along it. A route that was used not only to transport agricultural products, but also people, was likely to have a tavern where travelers could rest during their journey. A tavern, or ordinary, as they were often called, was constructed some time in the 1740s at Aldie Gap in the Bull Run Mountains, where the Mountain Road met the Shenandoah Hunting Path (present-day Route 15). This is significant as it shows that a connection between the Occoquan River and the Shenandoah Valley had already been established by the early 18th century, allowing farmers to transport their agricultural goods to the warehouses and ports along the river where they were sent to more distant markets.[40]

While demographic information is scarce, tithing information from the Truro Parish vestry provides an indication of population figures for the period from 1733 to 1742. The number of whites in 1733 is estimated to be 1,498, and by 1742 had increased to 2,928; for blacks, the figures are estimated to increase from 612 in 1733 to 1,197 in 1742. More accurate data regarding actual settlement figures is unavailable at this time however.[41]

Circa 1755, a section of the Mountain Road between Ox Road and Centreville Road became known as Braddock Road.[42] This was likely due to the hope at the time that General Braddock would march his army from camps at Fredericksburg and Alexandria to Winchester along the Mountain Road during the French and Indian War. This hope was dashed, however, when it was realized that such an endeavor would have involved widening and improving the roadway. Instead, one of Braddock's brigades marched from Alexandria through Maryland via Georgetown and Frederick. Another brigade, under the command of Colonel Sir Peter Halkett, marched through Leesburg.[43]

In addition to the Griffins, other settlers known to have received land grants in the area that became today's greater Centreville area were George Eskridge, who received land

[39] Fairfax County Deed Book #6, 107, 1898, quoted in Smith, *Centreville, Virginia Its History and Architecture*, 3.
[40] Fairfax Harrison, *Landmarks of Old Prince William* (Berryville, VA: Chesapeake Book Co., 1964), 476-480; 494-496; and 508-510, quoted in Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 3.
[41] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 19.
[42] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 29.
[43] Loudoun County Government, "The History of Loudoun County."

patents in 1725 and 1729; Richard Britt, who received land grants for 1,140 acres on Big Rocky Run and Flat Licking Branch in 1728; William Linton, or Lynton, who received 386 acres on Little Rocky Run and Johnny Moore Creek in 1730; George Slater who received 248 acres on Big Rocky Run in 1744; and James Thomas who received 1,502 acres on Johnny Moore Creek and Little Rocky Run in 1731.

It was Francis Awbrey and Willoughby Newton, however, who received the first proprietor's patents for the land on which the town of Centreville eventually developed. Awbrey's patent was for 700 acres bounded on the northwest by Big Rocky Run, and extending eastward. His largest landholdings were on Goose Creek, near present-day Leesburg. Colonel John Tayloe purchased Awbrey's 700 acres and then sold the land to Willoughby Newton in 1740. Land owned by Slater and Thomas also eventually became part of Willoughby Newton's landholdings.[44]

By 1749, Newton's landholdings in the area totaled over 6,400 acres. His will, recorded in Westmoreland County (the location of his principal residence), indicated several plantations in Westmoreland, Fairfax, and Loudoun Counties. When Newton's estate at Centreville was inventoried, it included two oxen, twenty-eight cattle, thirty-six pigs, a small number of farming and carpentry tools, five cider barrels, and five Negro slaves—four men and one woman. It is likely that Newton's agricultural land was not dissimilar to other farms in the area and included livestock, crops, and orchards. Newton's immediate descendents appear to have remained in the vicinity of Newgate and influenced the development of Centreville. Members of Newton's family included his son John, his daughter Katherine, who married into the Jett family and then into the Lane family, and his daughter Mary, who also married a Lane.[45]

As was the case with most owners of large holdings, Newton leased much of his land to small farmers. Documents attest to various leases as follows: in October 1739, Newton leased 200 acres to "…John Gorun, Mary his wife, and Thomas Gorun... whereon Paul Howel formerly built a house …on Little Rocky Run… Beginning a little above the rolling road." The following month, Newton leased 200 acres to Richard Omohundro on Little Rocky Run "...whereon Richard hath built a Small house."[46]

After Newton had purchased Awbrey's 700 acres, he leased 150 acres to Thomas Brown. Archaeological investigations undertaken on the Brown property provide important information regarding tenant practices and impacts on the landscape. According to documentary sources, Brown was a tenant farmer who occupied the site as early as 1740, building a house by 1743. His heirs continued to occupy the land until 1844. Artifactual and documentary evidence suggest that, in a time of general economic decline, Brown substantially increased his economic status, purchasing the property he had tenant farmed. Brown is known to have sold the Newton leasehold in 1776. The findings of the archaeological investigations suggest that the Lane family began to occupy the property

[44] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 3-8.
[45] Northern Neck Grants Book G, 188-189, September 13, 1749; indicates a deed, which consolidated Newton's landholdings; Westmoreland County Deed and Will Book #14, 461-464. Court of May 26, 1767, quoted in Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 9.
[46] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 10.

around 1780. Coleman Brown purchased a portion of this property from the Lane heirs in 1811. Coleman Brown, son of Thomas Brown, incorporated his father's tract into his own farm. A decade later, Lewis Machen purchased the property and created his own farm, which he named Walney. This property remained in the Machen family until 1935.[47]

Further land in the area was leased to William Grove, William Remey, Matthew Forrester, Robert Thomas, Jr., and William Fryer, Jr. In addition to the land he leased to white farmers, some of Newton's land was worked by slaves whom he quartered on the property. This is shown in a 1743 plat which is titled a "Quarter and Plantation made on ye land bought of Col. Tayloe … the "Old Quarter," a Quarter in ye Poison Field," and "Samuel Eskridge's Quarter."[48]

The practice of leasing land to tenants was common throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. During the early years of settlement, landowners were able to take advantage of indentured servants and slaves to farm small parcels of land that were part of larger holdings. These parcels generally had at least one building that served as the farmhouse, a number of smaller outbuildings and rudimentary structures, gardens, and woodlots or meadows for livestock, as well as agricultural fields. Such units functioned independently from the main plantation and allowed large landowners to generate income in addition to that generated on the primary family estate. These quarters supported the family seat as satellite farms and affected the landscape by continuing the development of agricultural land through the clearing of forest, cultivation of new fields, and abandonment of old fields with exhausted soils to meadow. Unlike the physical character of the main plantation, which expressed a more unified, architecturally well-constructed place, the quarters were utilitarian places, typically primitive, with earthfast structures that served as tobacco, livestock, and equipment barns and production areas in close proximity to crop fields. Typically, these structures were connected to the broader landscape through dirt roads or cart paths and informal footpaths that criss-crossed the landscape.[49]

In 1746, Newton petitioned to build a mill on Big Rocky Run—an indication that farmers were already growing grain in the area. The land associated with this petition is the current location of Cabell's Mill. The Mount Gilead deed to Joel Beach indicates that this land lay on "the road to William Carr Lane's Mill." Archaeological evidence indicates that the current Middlegate House and likely the current Cabell's Mill were standing at this time. Family holdings also included a tavern which John Newton, Willoughby's son, built and sold to William Carr Lane in 1761. Newton's daughter, Kathrine, and her husband William Jett built a store on the Mountain Road around 1762. Shortly after

[47] Thomas F. Higgins, et al., "A Post-Revolutionary Farmstead in Northern Virginia. Archaeological Data Recovery at Site 44FX1965 Associated with the Proposed Interstate 66 and Route 28 Interchange Improvements Project; Fairfax County, Virginia," prepared for Dewberry and Davis (Williamsburg: The College of William and Mary, April 1997.)
[48] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 10.
[49] For further understanding of the tenant landscape see Isaac, *The Transformation of Virginia, 1740-1790*; Dell Upton, "White and Black Landscapes in Eighteenth-Century Virginia," in Robert B. St. George, *Material Life in America* (Boston, MA: Northeastern University Press, 1988), 357-369; Willard F. Bliss, "The Rise of Tenancy in Virginia," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 58 (1958), 427-41; and T.H. Breen, *Tobacco Culture*, (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1985) among others.

William Jett passed away, Kathrine married John Lane. Together, they continued to run the store. The store, initially called Wapping, but, later known as Lane's Store, was a well-known Newgate landmark located a short distance from where the Centreville Methodist Church would be built. John Lane's brothers, James and William Carr, were also business owners in Centreville. The Lane brothers were sons of William Lane and Martha Carr Lane of Nominy Forest. The Lanes sold dry goods, and may have held sales of land and slaves in front of the store. Together with the store, the Lanes owned the tavern and a stable, all located along the Mountain Road in Newgate.[50]

Another well-known landmark was Newgate Tavern, sometimes referred to as Eagle Tavern (*see figures 2-4, 2-5, and 2-6*). As noted above, it was built on land that William Carr Lane had purchased from John Newton. A license to keep an ordinary was recorded as belonging to Lane in 1768 and 1769. William Carr Lane died when his son was eight years old, and so the executors of his estate were his brothers and his brother's son-in-law, Simon Triplett.[51]

The tavern appears to have been typical of Virginia construction in the 18th century. Built on a stone foundation, the one-and-one-half story frame weatherboard building had a shingled roof, large exterior chimneys of stone and brick, and a large front porch.[52] A photograph, taken in the early 20th century, shows Newgate Tavern to be a structure prominently situated on a rise with a large stone or brick chimney (*see figure 2-5*). Further images show the tavern to be neatly enclosed by fencing and with outbuildings.

The tavern was a resting place on the journey between Alexandria and points west, frequented by such illustrious visitors as George Washington. Washington is known to have stopped at the tavern twice in 1769. In March 1771, Washington wrote in his diary of dining at the Tripletts, who, as noted above, were relatives of the Lanes.

> The Doctr. & I set of for Winchester. Dined at Triplets and lodgd at Wests.[53]

Newgate was well known to Washington as he noted a second visit to the place in June 1788:

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[50] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture,* 17.
[51] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture,* 19-21.
[52] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture,* 19.
[53] Donald Jackson and Dorothy Twohig, eds., "The Diaries of George Washington," Vol. 3. The Papers of George Washington (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1978), 12. Washington had called a meeting of the officers of the Virginia Regiment at Winchester on 4 Mar. to report on the trip down the Ohio River that he had made the previous fall. On his journey he apparently stopped at Newgate ordinary, run by James and Simon Triplett (Virginia *Gazette*, P&D, 31 Jan., 7 Feb., and 14 Feb. 1771, and R, 31 Jan. 1771). TRIPLETS: the ordinary of James and William Carr Lane at Newgate (now Centreville). Since George Washington had last stopped there on 12 Sept. 1769, William Carr Lane had died, leaving the tavern and the other family enterprises to the care of James Lane and James's son-in-law Simon Triplett. A second cousin of Thomas and William Triplett of Fairfax County, Simon Triplett had married James Lane's daughter, Martha, in 1765. Cornelia McDonald, *A Diary with Reminiscences of the War and Refugee Life in the Shenandoah Valley, 1860-1865* (Nashville, TN: Cullom and Ghertner, 1935), 474-76, 487-88.

> Wednesday 4th. About 7 O'clock I left this place, Fairfield, bated at a Small Tavern (Bacon fort) 15 miles distant—dined at the Tavern of one Lacey 14 Miles further and lodged at Newgate 16 Miles lower down.[54]

Founding of Centreville, a Crossroads Community, 1792–1861

After the initial petition in 1790[55] produced no result, the residents of Newgate successfully petitioned the Virginia General Assembly in 1792 to establish a town. The new town was at first named Centerville, but its name was soon changed to Centreville. Its name apparently was derived from its central position, being about equidistant from Leesburg, Middleburg, Warrenton, Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria. The initial petition reveals that the lands in question lay between Newgate and Great Rocky Run Bridge on property owned by Mary Lane and Geo[orge] Ralls and Jno. (John) Stuart Alexander. A town laid out on these lands would have as its main street the turnpike road

[54] Donald Jackson and Dorothy Twohig, eds., "The Diaries of George Washington," Vol. 5, 1979, 336. A note in the paper reveals information about Lacey's tavern but nothing regarding Newgate, simply as Washington stated, that he lodged there: "Joseph Lacey apparently began renting and operating Charles West's tavern in Loudoun County some time before West's death in 1786 and subsequently purchased the place (Harrison [1], 495-96). John West's tavern in Loudoun County."

[55] The text of the petition reads as follows:

> To the Honble Speaker & Gentlemen of the House of Delegates for the Commonwealth of Virginia;
>
> We your Petitioners propriators & Residuary Legatees of the Lands lying between Newgate & Great Rocky Run Bridge pray that a Town may be lain off & establishd on the Lands of Mary Lane, Geo Ralls, & Jno Stuart Alexander, making the Turnpike Road, as it at present stands (between the Proprietors) the main Street; & your Petitioners hope & trust, that their prayer will be heard, & granted Accordingly, for the following Reasons, Viz That the same will be situated on the Turnpike Road, leading from the Northwestern Teritory, to the Towns of Alexandria, Colchester, & Dumfries, that it will be central, or nearly so, to the above mentioned places, to Middleburg, George Town, Fauquier Court House, & Leesburg, it being computed five & twenty miles from Alexandria, the same distance from Dumfries, twenty from Colchester, 25 from Fauquier Court House, the same distance from Leesburg, & George Towne. That it will be in a healthy & well waterd Country, & in the midst of a rich & Nourishing Neighbourhood &c; All which considerations time to prove to your Petitioners, that (under proper conduct) it will become in a short time respectable as a manufacturing Town. We beg leave to mention to your Honble House, that James Hardage Lane, decd, leaving Mary his wife & several children, that he devised that tract of Land, wherof apart is proposed to be laid off for the use of the Town, to the said Mary his wife for life then to be sold for the benefit of his Children, most of whom are of Age and have become parties to this our Petition, foreseeing the very great advantage that will result to them by selling out in Lotts &c We wish that the Town may be called Unknown by the name of Almighty & that [left blank] be appointed as Trustees for the same?your Petitioners shall ever pray &c
>
> Jno Stuart Alexander; Mary Lane Executrix; Wm Lane; Mary Lane; Bukah Lane; Deliah Lane; George Lane; Daniel C. Lane; Enoch S. Lane; George Ralls

Virginia Legislative Petitions, 20 Nov 1790, Library of Virginia, Fairfax County Legislative Petitions; Transcript by Debbie Robison from microfilm, Fairfax County Public Library, Virginia Room.

that ran between the properties. A plat showing equally-sized parcels appears to overlay a triangle edged by the Mountain Road, which apparently was rerouted to form Main Street, and the road to Lane's Mill, which intersected the Mountain Road at Newgate Tavern, and angled through proposed parcels 102, 104, 106, and 112. What appears to be the Thames Creek is named the "River Thames" on the plat and runs through parcels 111, 21, 19, 18, 51, and 54 (*see figures 2-7, 2-8, and 2-9*).[56]

The proclamation establishing the town of Centreville read as follows:

> Be it enacted that seventy acres of land, lying near Newgate, in the County of Loudoun, the property of John Stewart Alexander, Presley Carr Lane, George Ralls, Mary Lane and Francis Adams…to be by them, or a majority of them laid off into lots of half an acre each, with convenient streets, and established a town by the name of Centerville. The trustees shall cause the main street … to be laid off in such a direction as to bind on the lands of Francis Adams, and Mary Lane, on one side and Presley Carr Lane, George Ralls, and John Stewart Alexander, on the other.[57]

The original plat of Centreville indicated three roads running parallel to one another in a northwest/southeasterly direction: Main, Adams, and Jefferson. Main was laid out to be sixty feet wide, while the remainder of the streets within the community were laid out with a forty-foot right of way. Main Street in Centreville is now Braddock Road.[58] Seven streets ran perpendicularly across these three roads: Alexander, Lane, Mary, Francis, Ralls, Keene, and Carr Streets. They were named for the original land owners. Keene Street follows the alignment of present-day Mount Gilead Road, and Ralls Street appears to have followed the alignment of the road trace that runs between the Mount Gilead property and the Spindle House property today. This road appears to have served to reroute a road leading to William Carr Lane's mill, sometimes referred to Caple's or Cabell's Mill Road.[59] This road may also at one time have been known as Pig Alley.

At this time it was also determined that the lots should be sold and "…on each a dwelling-house sixteen feet square at least, with a brick or stone chimney, to be finished fit for habitation within three years from the day of sale." The trustees responsible for establishing the town were also to determine the rules and orders for building houses. Town lots were advertised for sale in the Virginia *Gazette*:

> On Thursday the 25th day of June next, will be sold at public auction, on the premises for 12 months credit one hundred and eight half-acre lots of lande, established a town by the last assembly and called Centreville. This town is situated in Loudoun County, 25 miles from Alexandria and includes the well-known Newgate, Wapping, and Mount Gilead. The

[56] Virginia Legislative Petitions, 20 November 1790, Library of Virginia, Fairfax County, Legislative Petitions.
[57] Quoted in Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture,* 31.
[58] Laura Davis, *The Tanyard Newsletter*, April 16, 1992.
[59] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 32; and personal communication with Debbie Robison, January 2006.

> fertility of the soil, the wealthy independence of the neighborhood, the healthy and central situation of the place, and the prospect of its shortly becoming of greater importance. [60]

One of the trustees involved in establishing the town of Centreville, Francis Adams, was influential in developing the landscape through speculation and construction. He purchased several lots and developed properties for the purpose of generating rental income. Adams built Havener House as a combination store and residence, but also owned and rented a blacksmith shop, a stable, and a granary. In addition, he owned several small houses that were occupied by laborers in the town's growing industries. It is possible that Francis Adams was also instrumental in introducing tanning to the town of Centreville, as he owned the tan and currying building managed by John Buckey. However, Joel Beach may actually have been a tanner in Centreville prior to Adams' purchase of Mount Gilead. Insurance policies for the tannery from 1803 and 1805 indicate that it was located adjacent to a dwelling, shown on the insurance policy as separated from it only by a chimney (*see figure 2-10*).

The residents of Centreville tried hard to make their new town more than just a traveler's stopover along Braddock Road. A map of 1807 indicates Centreville as a community well connected by small roads to the larger transportation routes of the Bull Run and Occoquan tributaries and in not too distant reach of the cities of Alexandria and Washington (*see figure 2-11*). Beginning in 1797, residents petitioned the General Assembly on several occasions to move the District Court from Dumfries to Centreville, emphasizing the benefits the town had to offer as follows:

> More central than any other town in the said District, being almost equally distant from every part thereof; that it is situated in a healthy populous and well cultivated country, and that the roads leading from very extensive parts of the Potomac, the town of Alexandria, unite at that point; that in addition to these circumstances, it is expected that very little expense will be incurred by the District from the removal of the seat of Justice to Centerville as very numerous subscriptions may be calculated on from individuals towards erecting the necessary public buildings…[61]

Signatories of this petition include the following, many of which clearly had a stake in the development of the town of Centreville: John Utterback, Reuben Triplett, John Grigsby, Peter Jett, Jr., Enoch Grigsby, Nathaniel Grigsby, and Benjamin Grigsby. Red House (current Haymarket), however, was eventually selected as the location for a courthouse. Despite their loss, the residents' attempts to improve the town of Centreville did not end with the loss of the courthouse. Thereafter, local residents founded a school, known as the Centerville Academy, which was incorporated in 1808. The school was to draw students from nearby communities, who would then board in Centreville homes.

[60] Samuel Shepherd, *The Statutes at Large in Virginia, 1792-1806,* Vols. 1-111 (New York: Ames Press, 1970 reprint), i, 378, quoted in Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture,* 31.
[61] Petition to the General Assembly, December 8, 1797. Filed in collection of Broadsides, Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia.

A number of Centreville landowners took out Mutual Assurance policies in 1803, 1805, and 1815, an indication that their property was of a certain marketable value. Insurance policy records of 1803 attest to the fact that Francis Adams was a major developer of property along Main Street. In 1789, Adams purchased the Mount Gilead tract frontage on Main Street, including parcels 15, 17, 19, 21 and part of 112.[62] He also purchased the rest of Mount Gilead that did not front the road.

Records pertaining to the construction of Mount Gilead vary considerably. While it was assigned a construction date of 1749 by Alvin C. Detwiler, most historians believe the house was built ca. 1785 by Joel Beach, the year he acquired a six-acre property from his father-in-law James Hardage Lane, who owned a 350-acre tract near Newgate. Beach is known to have maintained a tavern in the Mount Gilead House until approximately 1789.[63] Beach was also a tanner at some time. At this time, the front of the house faced southeast and was entered by means of two parallel doors situated beneath an overhanging south porch, one of which led into the dining room.[64]

In 1803, an insurance policy of Mount Gilead provides a sketch of the main building, said to be "contiguous to three Wooden Buildings," and a kitchen said to be "…contiguous to three other Wooden Buildings" (*see figure 2-12*). It is not clear if this is three wooden buildings in total, or six buildings, as indicated by the word "other." The main building illustrated on the 1803 policy appears to be north of the main dwelling, with a "wooden office underpinned with stone" located with its face to the south façade of the main dwelling and perpendicular to the kitchen. The policy described the kitchen as: "A kitchen, the half of stone and the other half of wood, 12 by 20."

In 1805, the property was expanded with a shed addition and two dormers in the south elevation, described in insurance records as "Shed 9 by 32." The insurance policy described the kitchen as "Wooden kitchen 12 by 20 feet underpin'd with Stone." However, the policy illustrates the kitchen and office as each perpendicular to the main dwelling and to its north façade. An insurance policy of 1815 confirmed that the location of the kitchen was 20 feet north of the dwelling.[65]

It is not clear who lived in the house between 1815 and 1837 when Anna Marie Lane Adams sold the property to Alexander Grigsby. In 1831, a deed for property adjacent to the Mount Gilead tract refers to Ann Adam's garden palings, indicating that a fence surrounded the garden (*see figure 2-13*).[66] In the same year, records indicate that Malcolm McNeal Jamesson was renting the Mount Gilead property. Jamesson purchased the property from Grigsby in 1842.[67] In an 1851 indenture, the property is described as including a tanyard, store house, dressing house, stable, and kitchen.

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[62] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 65.
[63] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 63, 64, and 68.
[64] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 69.
[65] Virginia *Journal &* Alexandria *Advertiser*, May 25, 1798, quoted in Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 22; Mutual Assurance of Virginia, policy #2055, Francis Adams, April 9, 1803, and #1, Francis Adams, May 31, 1805, Library of Virginia Archives.
[66] Fairfax County Deed Book 52:262 George W. Lane to George Sheid, 20 April, 1831.
[67] Smith, *Centerville Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 65.

An 1835 gazetteer described Centreville as lying in the western part of the countryside, 143 miles from Richmond and 27 miles southwest of Washington, along the Fauquier and Alexandria Turnpike road about 6 miles from the dividing line of Loudoun and Prince William Counties. It is described as situated on an elevated and highly picturesque spot affording one of the best mountain prospects in the state of Virginia. The healthful aspect of the location was emphasized as being remarkable for the salubrity of its air, and the health of its inhabitants. The community, which boasted a population of 200, was described as having thirty dwelling houses, one Methodist meetinghouse, two taverns, three mercantile stores, one common school and a well-organized Sunday school. It also had two tanners, one saddler, four boot and shoe manufacturers, one wheelwright, two blacksmiths, one cabinetmaker, two house carpenters, one tailor, two attorneys, and three physicians. Civil War-era maps indicate the topography of Centreville, sited atop a hill and edged by steeper slopes, the agricultural composition of the surrounding area with cleared fields marked out to the east of the turnpike, and its location as a crossroads of various transportation routes (*see figures 2-14 and 2-15*).

A map of 1879 shows Centreville as one of the significant trade centers in the County of Fairfax with a post office as an indication of its status as a community. The map also indicates the names of large landholders in the vicinity (*see figure 2-16*).

Many of Centreville's properties were well built, with solid foundations of local red sandstone. Those that survive today include the Havener House, Harrison House, Mount Gilead, St John's Church, the old Stone Church, the Hardee Chambliss Law Office and Utterback House. One of these, Francis Adams' Havener House, was originally constructed of logs with wood siding and a mortared fieldstone foundation. The Havener House was described as having large center beams and smaller beaded cross beams, all fastened together with wood pins, indicating a craftsman's hand in the construction. During the Civil War, the house was used as an aid station. In 1912, it became a post office, but in 1922 its use changed again to a residence and store. At one time the Havener House also served as an inn. An 1820 advertisement mentions it as a place of entertainment, otherwise known as a hotel:

> Travellers Rest
>
> At the Willow Spring in Centerville, Fairfax Co. VA. The Subscriber has opened a House of Entertainment in the center of Centerville. Exclusively for Travellers. Nothing will be permitted that will injure the feelings or disturb the repose of the genteel or weary traveller. He keeps the post office. Papers from any section of the country can be seen. Travellers will be so good as to give him a call and judge for themselves. He will only add that his charges will be in proportion to the hard times—and hopes that travelers will encourage an Establishment of this kind.
> JOHN HENNING.[68]

An image showing the main street through Centreville indicates a row of substantially built houses, all with large chimneys, facing the main street. Outbuildings appear to have

[68] Smith, *Centerville Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 80.

been located to the rear or side of the main buildings, and were set back from the street. This organized arrangement of buildings along a main street is typical of the grid pattern used for early American town layouts beginning in the early 18th century. Havener House is shown as neatly enclosed by a fence—an indication of private space separated from the common public area of the road (*see figures 2-17, 2-18, and 2-19*).

Another property, Harrison House, was constructed on the corner of Main and Keene Streets (present-day Braddock and Mount Gilead Roads), and backed onto the tannery owned and run by Daniel Harrington. The two-story frame and clapboard house, which was likely built ca. 1840, has a stone, walk-in basement, and a stone chimney; a spring and outbuilding also exist on the property. The Harrison family owned the house between 1875 and 1949. The tanyard was located to the east of the Harrison House on a lot adjoining the Adams tanyard. Harrington sold his tanyard to John Buckey, who had originally operated the tanyard owned by Francis Adams. Water for the tanning process was supplied by Thames Creek, which also served as potable water for the citizens of Centreville. It is not known if the spring located near the Havener House was the source for the creek.[69]

Other properties that were part of Centreville during the late 19th to early 20th centuries were the Four Chimney House, otherwise known as the Grigsby House, Royal Oaks, the Hardee Chambliss Law Office, the Utterback House, and the Mohler House. Of these, the Hardee Chambliss Law Office and Utterback House survive. The Grigsby or Four Chimney House and Royal Oaks were apparently the two most impressive houses in Centreville and were located at either end of Main Street. Mutual Assurance Records attest to the grandeur of Four Chimney House, a wood-frame building, which indeed had four chimneys—massive stone stacks. Chimneys were an indication of wealth in the early years of Virginia. The house was described as a two-story structure that measured 46 by 30 feet with a stone foundation and cellar (*see figures 2-20 and 2-21*). Outbuildings indicated in the insurance records include a kitchen and log stable. The property was insured for the highest sum of all those insured in Centreville. Although there is currently no evidence to support this theory, it is possible that James Hardage Lane constructed the Four Chimney House sometime between his purchase of the property from John and Katherine Lane in 1769 and his death in 1787. By 1815, the Four Chimney House was the home of Humphrey Peake, a lawyer with clients and investments in Alexandria and the District of Columbia as well as Orange, Prince William, and Fairfax Counties.

Royal Oaks was set well back from Main Street, approached by a tree-lined drive, and surrounded by large oaks (*see figure 2-22*). It was built on land that Willoughby Newton gave his son John in 1753. John's primary residence was in Westmoreland County, however, and it is unlikely that the Royal Oaks house was a quarter of his property. An advertisement announcing the sale of the property appeared in 1774 through an executor of Newton Keene's as follows:

> A tract of valuable LAND in the said County, adjoining to the said place called Newgate, and partly bounded by the Mountain Road, containing

[69] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture,* 41.

> about 1,400 acres; about 100 acres whereof are under a Lease for one or two Lives, at a small yearly Rent. There is only one small plantation, and but very little cleared Ground upon it. It is extremely well watered and timbered, and has a considerable Quantity of Ground upon it fit for improving into a Meadow...[70]

The house appears to have been constructed between 1765 and 1770 by Newton Keene, Sr., who purchased the land from his cousin John Newton. It is known to have had a stone foundation and had two large stone-end chimneys. The corner of the Royal Oaks property was located across from the Eagle Hotel or Eagle Inn, as it was sometimes known.

The Mohler House was a wood frame vernacular I-house similar to the Harrison House, with a side-gable roof, an end chimney, and a full-width, hipped-roof porch. It was constructed ca. 1830. In 1843 its owner was listed as Martha Roberdeau. The Mohler House was demolished in June 1969.

The Hardee Chambliss Law Office, also known as the Hickory Stitch building, is a two-story, three-bay vernacular I-house of frame construction clad in German lap siding, built ca. 1914 by W.F. Utterback on a low stone foundation. It features gable-end returns and two interior-end brick chimneys, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows, louvered wooden shutters, a plain frieze board, capped corner boards, and a rear two-story ell with interior-end chimney. The property was bought by Claiborne Wells in 1939; his widow sold the property in 1958. The Chambliss family acquired the property in 1961. Little additional information has been acquired about this property for inclusion in the CLR.[71]

The Utterback House, also known as the Long and Foster building, is a twin of the Chambliss Law Office completed in 1918. The dwelling is a two-story, three-bay vernacular side-passage building of frame construction. It has German-lap siding, two brick interior end-chimneys, and two-over-two sash windows. The house sits on a low stone foundation and has fluted capped corner boards, a plain frieze board with alternating single and paired brackets in the eaves, and a lunette window in the central front gable. An addition to the rear and side features a ten-bay wrap-around porch with modern turned posts and a hipped roof of standing seam metal.[72]

Centreville had two churches. One, the Centreville Methodist Church, otherwise known as the Old Stone Church, is located across from the Havener House. This church was completed in 1854 on a small lot along Main Street donated by Alexander Grigsby and Caroline S. Grigsby, his wife, with later additions enlarging the site to almost a half-acre (*see figure 2-23)*.

[70] Provided by Debbie Robison, with reference to http://pastportal.org/links/.
[71] Maral Kalbian, Phase I Cultural Resources Supplemental Study, Proposed Routes 28/29 Interchange Project Fairfax County, July 1995, VDHR File: 94-1847.
[72] Kalbian, Phase I Cultural Resources Supplemental Study, Proposed Routes 28/29 Interchange Project Fairfax County, July 1995, VDHR File: 94-1847

A second place of worship in the vicinity of Mount Gilead was St. John's Episcopal Church, organized in 1844 by Reverend William F. Lockwood. In 1849, John A. Throckmorton donated one acre of land for construction of a church building; St. John's was consecrated in 1851. An additional two acres of land were accrued over the years. As noted in the next section, the church was destroyed during the Civil War. The building that exists today was constructed in 1867 on the same property (*see figure 2-24*).

Between 1800 and 1861, Centreville slowly declined in prosperity, mostly due to the loss of business on the Warrenton Turnpike to the Little River Turnpike, which was constructed to the north of Centreville on topography that was less steep, allowing traffic to pass on easier grades. The route, originally referred to as the Fauquier and Alexandria Turnpike when incorporated in 1808, became known as the Warrenton Turnpike after Warrenton was officially named in 1810. The turnpike was under the directorship of George Summers, William Moss, and Humphrey Peake. Peake was President of the Board of Directors and lived in the Four Chimneys House in 1812 where he held board meetings. The turnpike was to extend for a distance of twenty-eight and a half miles, and be twenty feet wide, except between Warrenton and Buckland, where it was to be sixteen and a half feet wide. There were to be two lanes, each eleven feet wide. By 1815, the turnpike road was completed to Buckland; this stretch was macadamized by 1828. Six toll gates were set up at approximately five-mile intervals. One was located at the east end of Main Street in Centreville, adjacent to the Eagle Tavern. The completion of the Warrenton Turnpike made Centreville a crossroads in the Little River Turnpike system with three forks radiating out from the Little River Turnpike to Warrenton and Snicker's Gap (Snickersville) and to Ashby's Gap (Upperville).[73]

Traffic through Centreville diminished as travelers preferred the Little River Turnpike. However, it was the arrival of the Orange & Alexandria and the Manassas Gap Railroads in the 1850s that sealed Centreville's fate. These improved transportation routes, located away from Centreville, together with the loss of younger members of the community who migrated to newly opened territory in Kentucky where the soil was still fertile, had a detrimental effect on Centreville. Much of the inherited property belonging to the younger generation of Lanes and Adamses was sold off to speculators such as Alexander Spotswood Grigsby.[74]

The Civil War, 1861–1865

Centreville is located on a plateau of the Piedmont Physiographic Province that overlooks Big Rocky Run to the north and west, and the Little Rocky Run stream valley to the east some twenty miles west of the Federal capital of Washington, D.C. The landform of the plateau, coupled with its proximity to Washington, and its position at the junction of various transportation routes, proved highly desirable militarily.

The Piedmont is generally characterized by rolling countryside. The flat terrain of the Triassic age Culpepper basin, however, located just west of Centreville, is easier to

[73] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture,* 46.
[74] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 43-47.

traverse, particularly for large groups such as armies. For this reason, the region was one of the most heavily traveled and impacted regions during the Civil War.

In May 1861, after it became clear that the Virginia State referendum calling for secession would pass, the Federal Army began to occupy Alexandria and set up a defense system along the approaches from the west as well as the heights overlooking Washington. By the fall of 1861, Washington was a fortified city. After the Federals were defeated at the Battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861, they retreated to the shadow of hastily erected forts on the Arlington and Alexandria heights. West of Alexandria, the Federals set a defensive line overlooking the main approach roads in the rural area outside of town.[75] Although the Federals held only a sliver of land in Virginia from Langley to Alexandria, the Confederates were not in a position to challenge them. Instead, the Confederates blockaded the Potomac River. From the capital, Confederate flags could be seen waving over their advance positions in Virginia.

From this point on, the Confederates maintained a strategy of attrition, holding their ground by remaining well-equipped, and hoping to exhaust the men, supplies, and funding of the Federal army. To effect this strategy, the Confederacy dispersed small armies around the perimeter of the states within their control: along the Arkansas-Missouri border; at several points on the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts; along the Tennessee-Kentucky border; and in the Shenandoah Valley and western Virginia, as well as at Manassas. Their hope was that the Northern populace would grow tired of war and eventually seek peace and/or that European powers would recognize the Confederate States of America as a separate country and pressure the United States to cease hostilities. To this end, Southern armies repeatedly invaded Northern territories in hopes of striking fear in the populace and gaining recognition. In the end, this strategy proved unsuccessful; their manpower was spread so thin that, by 1862, Federal troops were able to penetrate Confederate positions.[76]

The town of Centreville was important strategically for its defensible location close to major turnpike and rail lines, its elevated topography, and proximity to Washington, D.C. Centreville was located near the junction of the Orange & Alexandria Railroad and the Manassas Gap line at Manassas Junction, which served as the major line of supply, reinforcement, and communications for military actions in Northern Virginia as described below:

> Running west, the Manassas Gap Railroad terminated at the railhead in Strasbourg, 25 miles southwest of Winchester, where Confederate troops were stationed to protect the Shenandoah Valley. If either Manassas Junction or the Shenandoah Valley was threatened by Federal advance, the Manassas Gap Railroad created a rail link for rapid reinforcement. It was

[75] Jo Balicki, John Milner Associates, Inc. Correspondence, December 7, 2005.
[76] James McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom, The Civil War Era* (New York: Ballantine, 1988), 337-338.

> clear to commanders and officials on both sides that control of the railroads would be important to military operations during the war.[77]

In May 1861, Confederate Brigadier General P.G.T. Beauregard, established his headquarters with 20,000 troops at Camp Pickens near Manassas Junction and oversaw the construction of extensive earthworks. In anticipation of an advance of Federal troops on their location, three fortified positions were established at Fairfax Courthouse, Centreville, and Mitchell's Ford along Bull Run. Many skirmishes broke out between encamped forces and reconnaissance parties that combed the countryside.[78]

Drawings by Robert Knox Sneden indicate the relationship between Centreville and significant transportation routes: the Warrenton Turnpike, Bull Run, the Manassas Gap Railroad, and the Orange & Alexandria Railroad. Sneden's drawings also indicate other towns in the vicinity as well as the forts and earthworks near Centreville, and their relationship to the steep topography around Centreville. Drawings of the fortifications and encampments show Centreville to be a small, neatly organized town surrounded by open countryside and agricultural fields that became highly protected under the hands of the Confederate forces (*see figure 2-25, 2-26, 2-27, and 2-28*).

On July 16, 1861, the Federal army, urged on by a president hungry for action, advanced through Fairfax County on the Little River and Columbia Turnpikes before occupying Centreville on July 18, 1861. The Union troops under Brigadier General Irvin McDowell continued southwest toward Manassas and encountered Confederate troops on Bull Run at Blackburn's Ford. In the resulting battle, the Union troops were repulsed and McDowell decided to maneuver around the Confederates left at Sudley Springs.[79] Following the Battle of Blackburn's Ford, several structures in Centreville were used as military hospitals, including the Centreville Methodist Church. On this same day, Confederate forces moved to reinforce Manassas from the Shenandoah Valley.[80]

During the Battle of Manassas (Bull Run), Confederate reinforcements under the command of Brigadier General Joseph Johnston traveled by rail over the Manassas Gap Railroad to the battlefield, becoming a decisive factor in the ensuing Confederate victory. The arrival of these troops at a critical moment tipped the scales in favor of the Confederates. After retreating to Washington, the Federal troops were reorganized and placed under the command of Brigadier General George B. McClellan.

In early October 1861, Confederate President Jefferson Davis met with General Johnston at Fairfax Courthouse to discuss Johnston's plans for a Confederate offensive. Davis

[77] William C. Davis, *Battle at Bull Run: A History of the First Major Campaign of the Civil War* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1981); and R. Jackson Ratcliffe, *This Was Manassas* (Manassas, VA: R.E.F. Typesetting & Publishing, 1973), quoted in John Milner Associates, Inc., "Fairfax County Civil War Sites Inventory" (Fairfax, VA: Fairfax County Park Authority, August 2002), 12.
[78] William C. Davis, *Battle at Bull Run,* 33, quoted in John Milner Associates, Inc., "Fairfax County Civil War Sites Inventory," 13.
[79] Davis, *Battle at Bull Run*, 72, in John Milner Associates, Inc., "Fairfax County Civil War Sites Inventory," 14.
[80] John Milner Associates, Inc., "Fairfax County Civil War Sites Inventory," 14.

rejected Johnston's plan. Instead, his 40,000 soldiers were ordered to establish fortifications on the high ground running from Union Mills to Centreville and along Bull Run.

The fortifications at Centerville have been described as follows:

> Beginning on the left at the valley of Cub Run, the entrenchments facing north, crossed Rocky Run about 1,000 yards north of the Warrenton turnpike and ran nearly parallel to the latter along the crest of the plateau above Rocky Run, a distance of two miles, to a hill north east of Centreville which overlooks the valleys of both Rocky Run and Little Rocky Run. Here they turned at a right angle and extended south for another three miles along the edge of the plateau commanding the valley of Little Rocky Run to its confluence with Bull Run. The works, with perfect fields of fire down the long slopes descending to the two streams consisted of thirteen battery positions containing embrasures for seventy-one field guns, connected with one another by infantry trenches…It was because of the natural strength of the plateau, moated all around by valleys and the streams which carved them, that the miles of earthworks crowning its skyline were never attacked…[81]

While General Johnston is said to have been headquartered at the Mount Gilead House during this time, troops were housed nearby in specially constructed huts on the high ground in Centreville. These Confederate winter quarters were extensive and well protected by earthen fortifications. According to eye-witness accounts, the landscape around Centreville was denuded by troops who used all available trees to build log huts and roads. Drawings from the period indicate Centreville and the surrounding area to be a very rural and sparsely populated landscape. Buildings in the drawings appear to be predominantly long, rectangular, single-story structures with prominent end chimneys (*see figures 2-29, 2-30, and 2-31*). One photograph of the Mount Gilead House from the Civil War period survives to illustrate its character at the time (*see figure 2-32*).

Sarah Summers Clark described the winter camps as follows:

> There was enough firewood on our farm to last us for hundreds of years. But during the winter the Southern troops had their winter quarters there and cut down every last bit of it. They built log houses to live in and they even used our logs to corduroy the road from Centreville to Manassas. And all during the winter they burned our trees for firewood. We were beginning to wonder what we were going to do for wood for ourselves the next winter.[82]

[81] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 56.
[82] Joseph Mills Hanson, *Bull Run Remembered. History, Traditions, and Landmarks of the Manassas (Bull Run) Campaign Before Washington 1861-1862* (Manassas, VA: National Capital Publishers, 1957), 39, quoted in John Milner Associates, Inc. "Fairfax County Civil War Sites Inventory."

Also during October 1861, the Confederates began construction of the world's first military railroad from Manassas Junction to Centreville to supply the entrenched army. Completed in late February 1862, it was in use for less then a month before the Confederates withdrew from Centreville.[83]

On March 9, 1862, Confederate forces withdrew to a position behind the Rappahannock, taking with them as much of their equipment and supplies as they could carry. Those supplies that were left, along with tents and freight cars on the Centreville spur railroad, were burned. A day later, Union troops entered Centreville finding, to their surprise, that what had appeared to be heavily armed fortifications, were in fact, supported by "Quaker Guns"—logs painted black to resemble cannon (*see figures 2-33 and 2-34*).[84] The Union army utilized the fortifications after the Confederates left (*see figures 2-35 and 2-36*).

The only documented case of any of the fortifications around Centreville ever having been involved in active fighting occurred on October 15, 1863, during the Bristoe Station Campaign. Confederate cavalry under Major General J.E.B. Stuart attempted a crossing of McLean's Ford just south of Centreville on Bull Run. Union soldiers held the ford and fired artillery from the vicinity of the McLean's Ford fortifications.[85]

Constant troop movements and encampments, major battles such as Second Manassas and Chantilly in August and September 1862, as well as skirmishes and raids took their toll on the Centreville area. The civilian population found it difficult to keep enough livestock or crops to survive, and many people simply abandoned their property to move to a safer area to wait out the war.[86]

One example is that of the Machen family who lived on Walney Farm, which bordered the town of Centreville on the north near Mount Gilead. As the Union soldiers withdrew through Centreville after their defeat at Second Manassas in late August 1862, they streamed past Mount Gilead and up present-day Walney Road through Walney Farm. Caroline Machen, wife of Lewis Machen, who owned Walney, was present. She described troops taking or shooting all of their livestock, picking all of the fruit off of the trees, and carting off all of the stored grain and cured meat. The Machens were left with nothing. They abandoned Walney in November 1862 and went to live with their oldest son in Baltimore for the duration of the war.[87]

As civilians left the area, it was increasingly a "no man's land" with military camps and picket posts. Confederate cavalry occasionally moved into the area, and Confederate ranger John Singleton Mosby conducted regular raids through the region. Nonetheless, the area remained mostly in the hands of Union forces.

[83] Hanson, *Bull Run Remembered,* 40-41.
[84] Hanson, *Bull Run Remembered*, 55.
[85] Editing changes provided by Charles Smith, Park Authority Historian and Naturalist, 50% draft CLR review comments, November 2005.
[86] Ibid.
[87] Ibid.

In 1865, an account of Centreville appeared in the Washington papers, indicating it as:

> once a village of rare beauty, perched upon a gentle slope of a high ridge and commanding a view of fertile valleys for many miles war swept, it and its ruins lie about, invested with all the saddening influences of perfect desolation.[88]

The physical landscape after the Civil War was described further:

> From Alexandria to the battlefield is one wide area of desolation. Fences are utterly swept away. Here and there a dilapidated house shelters a few squalid inmates, and occasionally a small patch of corn or wheat is passed, but the whole face of the country is changed. Scrub oak and pine are springing up everywhere.[89]

Various places in Centreville, both public and private, are said to have been used to shelter wounded troops after the battles of Manassas in 1861. St. John's Episcopal Church was one of these; it was later burned, however, by Federal troops, and all records of the congregation were lost. A new church building was under construction by 1867. Church membership declined following the war, however, and services were discontinued in 1891, held only intermittently over the next sixty years. The church maintains a strong congregation and community presence today. Centreville Methodist Church (the Old Stone Church) was also used as a temporary hospital during the Civil War. It was torn down between 1862 and 1865, but was rebuilt in 1870 (*see figure 2-37*).[90]

Reconstruction and the Aftermath of the Civil War, 1865–1917

Reconstruction in much of Fairfax County was relatively swift, but in Centreville recovery was slow. Much of the landscape around Centreville was destroyed during the war, leaving many debts to be paid off by those with mortgages on property. A correspondent from the Alexandria *Gazette* visited Centreville and described the situation as follows:

> We found it flourishing—but not as in the days of yore; improving, yet bearing marks painfully visible of the storm which had swept over it, like the simoom of the desert. The country looks much as it did in '64; much of the timber and fencing gone, while the long irregular lines of breastworks behind which stood the "gray and the blue," stretches away over the fields; each hill is still crowned with its fort, and from the embrasures we could

[88] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture,* 50.
[89] Washington *Sunday Star,* July 10, 1921. A report published in 1921 quoting from an account of the dedication of monuments on Bull Run Battlefield on Sunday June 11, 1865, quoted in Smith, *Centreville, Virginia Its History and Architecture*, 59.
[90] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 89.

> almost imagine we could see the blackmouthed engines of death frowning down upon us, as we had seen them in other days. We found the village contained beside the dwellings three stores, two blacksmith shops, two wheelwright shops, shoemaker shop, harness shop, &etc. all of which are doing a fair amount of business.[91]

The Civil War had an immense impact on much of the rural landscape of America. In some ways the war highlighted how rural and agricultural most of the country was. Many men, particularly those who fought for the Confederacy, were from a farming background, and so were familiar with working outdoors, with horses and with firearms. The Civil War, however, was also the first war fought with true technological sophistication. It was a war of mass-produced weapons, iron ships, and rifled small arms and artillery, and depended on the railroads to transport equipment.

Throughout the war, farmers in the North were able to feed their population and continue to hold export markets, in part because they were not blockaded, but also because of the industrialization and farm mechanization that had started in the 1830s allowing them to rely on methods other than manual labor. The South was a different story, however, because it was committed to labor-intensive methods such as slavery and depended on a weak transportation system that included overland and water routes, rather than a well-ordered network of rail lines. As such, Southern farmers were less successful in meeting the needs of their region.

When four million enslaved people were freed, most of them agricultural laborers, many questions arose about the future of Southern agriculture. What labor system would replace slave labor? What role would the freed people play? How would a new sense of community evolve?

Within fifteen years of the end of the war, these questions had begun to be answered. The South could not help but continue to be a rural society based on agriculture. The free labor system soon became constrained by severe social and economic factors, and was plagued by racial tensions. The rural South continued much as it had before, with three separate cultural groups: one bi-racial, one black, and one white. Well into the 20th century, the legacy of slavery remained evident due to the agrarian nature of the Southern economy and the need for large numbers of manual laborers accustomed to working in the fields.[92]

With the Confederate surrender in 1865, Southern agriculture was on the verge of collapse, emancipation of the slaves having cost the South approximately $1.5 billion.[93] The loss of capital in the form of labor was accompanied by a diminishment of the value of land, and of domesticated animals. Military appropriation of private stock and the lack

[91] Alexandria *Gazette*, June 14, 1870, quoted in Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 59.
[92] David B. Danbom, *Born in the Country: A History of Rural America* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995), 100-110. Most important of the early innovations for releasing Northern farmers from manual labor was the reaper, patented by Virginian Cyrus McCormick in 1834.
[93] Danbom, *Born in the Country: A History of Rural America*, 116.

of agricultural infrastructure meant that there were only two-thirds as many cattle, horses, mules, and swine on Southern farms in 1865 as there had been five years earlier. In addition, fighting had destroyed much of the infrastructure on which agriculture depended, including roads, bridges, and industrial buildings such as warehouses, cotton gins, flour mills, and enclosures.

By the end of the war, the South had also lost political currency. In effect it was a conquered territory occupied by Federal troops. During the war, the U.S. government had passed certain laws allowing land to be confiscated when the owners were absent and fighting for the rebel cause. The government leased much of the abandoned land to speculators from the North who attempted to raise crops with the help of freed blacks. By 1865, the treasury was also leasing abandoned lands to freedmen. The U.S. government created the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands to administer confiscated lands and to care for destitute freedmen and white refugees. The Freedmen's Bureau, as it was commonly known, would allow freed black families to lease up to forty acres of abandoned land for three years at an annual rate not exceeding the land's assessed value.[94]

When Andrew Johnson became president upon Lincoln's death in 1865, days after the surrender, he adopted a conciliatory approach to the South, issuing pardons and allowing Confederates to reclaim their land in exchange for declaring their allegiance to the United States. President Johnson then pressured the Freedmen's Bureau into returning confiscated lands to former slaveholders. Although private lands were returned to their former owners, the government reclaimed Federal lands in the Southern states. This was the land that the Southern states had seized within their borders upon seceding from the Union in 1861.

The transition from slave-dependent farming to one that included tenant farms, sharecropping, and free black farm ownership was slow and painful. This transition coincided with greater mechanization of agricultural systems, and urban development. Many formerly enslaved laborers moved from the tobacco fields of the upper South to the more profitable cotton fields of the lower South.[95]

When blacks sharecropped or owned their farms they tended to grow small amounts of wheat, corn, and tobacco, and raise a few pigs and chickens. Some attempted to become independent farmers. Tenant farming tended to be the norm, as between 1880 and 1910 the majority of farms were run on a tenancy basis.

In Centreville, a community of free blacks had existed since the late 18th century. By 1868, a request was made to the Freedmen's Bureau to build a school for black children in Centreville. Jesse Harris donated one acre of land for the purpose and his son, Charles Harris, asked the Bureau for additional funds to complete a schoolhouse begun by the

[94] John Solomon Otto, *Southern Agriculture During the Civil War Era, 1865-1880* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1994), 49.
[95] Otto, *Southern Agriculture*, 65.

community. The Freedman's Bureau approved the request for the building and also supplied a Quaker teacher from the Friends' Aid Society in Philadelphia.[96]

It is likely that the majority of blacks that remained in Centreville worked in some form or another in agriculture and related industries, although it is not known exactly how many were employed as such. Between 1865 and 1910, national figures for the total number of black farmers who owned their farms peaked at 26 percent. In the southern region, 24 percent of black farmers were independent, and in some states, black farm owners outnumbered black tenants by 60 and 70 percent. Nationally, in 1910, 97 percent of all black farmers lived in the South.[97]

Later, many freed blacks moved north to try their luck in the factories; labor in the South was another question, however. Former slaves were unsure of how to sell their labor, and former slave owners were not accustomed to associating with labor on a consensual basis. In the months after the end of the Civil War, planters attempted to create a free labor system that was only marginally different from the slave labor system. Planters required laborers to agree to year-long contracts, with wages deferred until completion of the contract. Those who broke their contracts received no pay, and, in some states, laborers' contracts could be sold to other employers. This Southern free labor system appeared much like slavery to both the laborers themselves and to Northern Radical Republicans. Laborers rebelled by refusing to work, fleeing employers and joining organizations such as the Union League. A solution was found in forging a system of rental agreements. By 1870, tenure agreements in which laborers and landlords split the harvest were becoming increasingly popular. The harvest share was determined from different factors: for example, if the laborer could contribute to the cost of purchasing seeds and fertilizer and had his own implements and draft animals, he would receive two-thirds or three-fourths of the harvest. Such farmers were usually called share tenants and had a property right in the crop under the law. When the landowner provided goods for production, the laborer's share was usually less than half.

One benefit of sharecropping was that both landowner and laborer shared in the risk of producing crops. Owners tolerated sharecropping because it assured that the work got done; it allowed them to profit from the land; and it relieved them of the task of closely supervising their labor, as had been necessary under slavery. The freed people tolerated sharecropping because it allowed them to live more independently than under slavery, and it gave them choices. However, in the long run it was a poor substitute for the freedom that the slaves had been promised.

Another problem in recovering the agricultural productivity of the South was the lack of credit available to increase markets, as well as for farmers to purchase supplies. Thus the crop-lien system developed under which planters, small landowners, and tenant sharecroppers purchased goods from merchants using their prospective crop as collateral.

[96] Carol Drake Friedman, "A Time to Rebuild," in *Centreville Bicentennial*, (no date)Vertical Files, Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library.
[97] Martha Terrell Harris, "From Slave to Landowner: How Black Farmers Used Tenant Farming as a Stepping Stone, Nelson County, Virginia 1865-1910" (Charlottesville: MA Thesis, Department of History, University of Virginia, 1993), 1-5.

Interest rates were high and crop prices low. Some planters began to keep stores on their land, thus becoming planter/merchants. Some merchants then also purchased or took over land that planters could no longer afford to keep.

Prior to the war, when labor was plentiful, planters would clear forest land to use for planting. When the forest areas were cleared, farmers and slaves made rail fences from the timber, enclosing crops and allowing livestock to roam. After the war, however, labor was short and farmers preferred to forego the expense of constructing fences. In 1866, while some states preferred to pass laws that insisted farmers fence in livestock, Virginia, together with some other southern states, passed a 'no-fence' law that allowed farmers to choose whether to fence livestock or crops.[98]

The Washington *Sunday Star* described Centreville in an edition dated August 16, 1914:

> Centreville is not a stirring place. It does not feel a single busy throb. It is stagnant and drowsy. Some men say, "it's dead." If ever a village was killed in war it was Centreville. Perhaps it was choked by smoke of burning powder or smothered by the sulphurous gas from guns; perhaps it was blighted by the rain of shell or overcome by the horrors that it saw. Today it bears wounds and scars. Its wounds are bullet-pitted walls and shot-riven trees. Its scars are sunken graves and vine-veiled redoubts.
>
> A dozen houses encompass the hamlet. Half of them cling the roadside, as though to feed their lien and leaning sides on such excitement as a passing team and the visitation of a stranger bring. These wan houses seem to sniff the yellow dust whirled up by a slow-going team as though it were exhilarating stuff. They bear a feeble and a listless look, and were they sentient things then you would likely say: Centreville is a little slow just now, but oh my! If you had been here about fifty years ago you wouldn't laugh now." And the Rambler believes that the old houses would speak truly.[99]

Although Centreville may have been lacking the vigor of the community it had once been, there was life in the small town yet. Properties constructed during the early 20th century in Centreville included the Utterback Store and Post Office and the Chambliss Law Office both built by W.F. Utterback and located on Braddock Road.[100]

When faced with a failing agricultural economy, farmers had looked to different methods to eke out a living and discovered the benefits of dairy farming. Milk and butter brought top prices in the markets of Alexandria and Washington.[101] It is not known whether the

[98] Otto, *Southern Agriculture*, 108.
[99] Smith, *Centreville Virginia, Its History and Architecture, 60.*
[100] For more information see VDHL Survey form for 13912 Braddock Road, in Dennis Blanton and Joe B. Jones, William and Mary Archaeological Project Center, "A Phase I Cultural Resource Survey of the Proposed Routes 28/29 Interchange Project, Fairfax County," (Fairfax, VA: Dewberry &Davis, June 1990).
[101] Carol Drake Friedman, "Milk Brings Renewal," in *Centreville Bicentennial, 1792-1992*, 14.

Jamesson family was involved in dairy farming at Mount Gilead, but the property remained in the Jamesson family, as some records suggest, until Penelope Jamesson's death in 1904. Prior to his death in 1884, Malcolm Jamesson created a family cemetery to the northeast of the house for the interment of members of his family. On Penelope Jamesson's death in 1904, a granite monument was erected commemorating Malcolm and Julia Jamesson and several of their children—George, Malcolm, Jessie, and Penelope. George, it appears, died at the age of four when he drowned in a neighbor's spring near the property. A local minister has suggested that some of the original grave markers were removed from the site and used to construct a patio associated with a dwelling near Centreville. Otherwise, the cemetery exists to this day, although some elements have deteriorated badly, including the wrought iron fence and entry gate that once enclosed it (*see figure 2-38*).[102] An image of Mount Gilead in ca. 1909 indicates it to be a modest house with two entrances and a picket fence in front (*see figure 2-39*).

The Beginnings of Modernity in Centreville, 1917–1937

After World War I, housing was greatly affected by changes in manufacturing and modern materials that were both inexpensive to manufacture and easily adapted to rapid construction. Sears, Roebuck & Company began advertising an affordable type of housing that needed no mortgage and could be ordered by mail. Owners either erected and finished the house themselves or paid for builders and carpenters to undertake the work. Whichever option they chose, the Sears, Roebuck & Company catalogue houses allowed many more Americans to own their own homes than had been previously possible. Sears offered mail order homes that could be customized according to the buyer's needs. Materials were shipped to the customer in kits either by rail or truck, and a leather bound instruction booklet embossed with the owner's name was included for assemblage.

Roger and Wilma Spindle of Centreville, together with other heirs of Wilma's father, mortgaged a nearby 180-acre farm to the Land Bank Commissioner pursuant to the Emergency Farm Mortgage Act of 1933. The Spindles, along with Wilma's mother and brother, borrowed $4,000 at 5 percent per annum. The mortgage was recorded at Fairfax County Court on September 30, 1933. On October 23rd, the Spindles purchased a four-and-one-half acre in Centreville lot from Paul and Elizabeth Rector.[103]

In 1934, the Spindle family of Centreville ordered a Sears house. They chose a Brentwood model, which was "a modern adaptation of a bungalow with an English flair."[104] Illustrations of the Brentwood model indicate four rooms and a bath with linen and broom closets—all modern conveniences. The house was advertised as inexpensive

[102] Fairfax County Deed Book G# 11, 69-70, December 31, 1932, quoted in Smith, *Centreville, Virginia Its History and Architecture*, 65-66.
[103] Fairfax County Deed Book (FX DB) J11(270):254, in Debbie Robison, "The Spindle's Sears, Roebuck & Co. Bungalow, " unpublished paper.
[104] Centreville Community Network, "The Sears Kit House," www.centreville.org (accessed February 4, 2005), in Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library.

on all counts: materials, labor, and the size lot needed on which to construct it. In short, the Sears house was a truly modern answer to Depression-era needs (*see figure 2-40)*.

The kit for the house was shipped by rail to Herndon Station, and Robert Spindle and Bernard and Wallace Cross signed an agreement "to build in the town of Centreville …one frame dwelling, material for said dwelling to be furnished by party of the first part, and construction shall be made in accordance with Sears, Roebuck & Company plan 13394A." Spindle appears to have finished the house himself, or found local tradespeople to help him, as the contract exempted Wallace and Bernard Cross from doing any brickwork, masonry, cement work, painting, plumbing, lathe and plaster, or electric work.[105] One feature of the building that differs from the catalogue model is that the family used the local vernacular fieldstone for the foundation and as the raised platform for the porch. In this way the Sears house was made to blend with the surrounding historic frame homes sheathed in wood siding and with fieldstone foundations (*see figures 2-41 and 2-42*). A plat shows the parcel of land on which the Spindles built their Sears house after it had been subdivided (*see figure 2-43*). The upper corner of the plat illustrates the parcel owned at that time by Todd and Melissa Swortzel where another house was later built. The house appears on a 1953 aerial of the community but is no longer extant today (*see figure 2-64*).

Despite the popularity of new ideas of modern comforts and conveniences made possible through innovations in technology and increased economic prosperity, it is clear that historic homes remained popular for their character and charm, as well as their value as historic artifacts. In 1921, Wynter Marshall who had long owned the Havener House, sold it to his brother-in-law, Howard Havener, who is known to have rehabilitated the property in 1933.

Some records indicate Mount Gilead remained in the ownership of the Jamesson family until 1932, but was then abandoned. A plat of Mount Gilead from 1933, surveyed for Mrs. Ethel B. Snodgrass, indicates the Mount Gilead property adjoining the property of Carrol B. Carter, with public roads running along the southeastern edge as well as the eastern edge of the property (*see figure 2-44*).[106] At this time, Mount Gilead Road appears to have been known as the Public Road to Chantilly, or the Chantilly-Centreville Highway. An image of Mount Gilead in 1934 indicates that it still had two entrances, but the fence seen in front in an earlier photo has gone and the place appears abandoned with one façade window and shutters missing (*see figure 2-45*). Alvin C. Detwiler purchased the property in 1935 and immediately began an ambitious restoration project. While Detwiler is credited for saving the property from decay, and is known to have attempted to follow accepted preservation practices of the time, such as those utilized to restore Williamsburg, his restoration efforts have since been described as "inaccurate." Fortunately, Mr. Detwiler left a detailed record of his work. Detwiler's restoration was painstaking; frame members were only replaced where necessary, and woodwork was carefully numbered when removed and later returned. Old materials were used to replace damaged pieces. For example, a section of the cornice was replaced with a similar section

[105] Contract June 6, 1934, supplied by Debbie Robison.
[106] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 67.

taken from what was possibly the office, described by Detwiler as "the small house that once stood in the field to the East."[107]

He is also known to have conducted some research into the property and, in 1947, described his findings: "The public road formerly ran along the bottom of the vegetable garden and that side was the front of the house, the house had a commanding situation in those days." Detwiler mentioned that his research revealed the original carpenter had also worked at Mount Vernon. The carpenter was likely William Bernard Sears, an indentured servant of George Mason, who also did much of the woodwork carving at Gunston Hall and Pohick Church. Sears and Mason are known to have witnessed the deed for Mount Gilead from William Carr Lane to Joel Beach.[108] It is interesting to note that George Washington wrote in his diaries of agreeing to pay Mr. William Triplett "to build the two houses in the Front of my House, plastering them also and running Walls for Pallisades to them from the Great House and from the Great House to the Wash House and Kitchen also." According to records, William Triplett was second cousin to Simon Triplett who ran Newgate Tavern, described earlier.[109]

Detwiler also removed the lean-to that had been constructed on the porch that led off the kitchen and returned the doorway to its original function as a window. Landscape additions made by Detwiler included a circular garden of boxwoods, brought from North Carolina, planted to recall Colonial practices. Detwiler is likely the one who reoriented the approach to the house, adding a new driveway and a circular turn-around north of the house. It is not clear from the documentation whether Detwiler added the stone pillars to mark the new entrance drive along Mount Gilead Road. However, since there is a matching pair in the woods marking the former entrance drive from Braddock Road, it is likely that these pillars were a Detwiler addition to the landscape. Detwiler appears to have established the new entrance drive to be more consistent with the restored house, particularly in response to the unsatisfactory character of a group of small outbuildings that had been constructed along the earlier approach from Braddock Road.[110]

Detwiler also added a garage designed to match the house, and two outbuildings he referred to as the "summerhouses," which appear to be modeled on Colonial outbuildings. These additions to the landscape were designed by friend, James A. Adams, of Washington, D.C. All of Detwiler's rehabilitation work was completed by 1937 (*see figures 2-46 through 2-48*).[111]

A 1937 aerial of the Centreville area illustrates the characteristics of the property at that time. Clearly represented in the photograph are the main house, garage, new driveway leading to the house and parking court from Mount Gilead Road, former entrance drive leading from the now-abandoned road connecting Braddock and Mount Gilead Roads,

[107] Smith, *Centreville,* Virginia, its History and Architecture, 69.
[108] Personal communication from Debbie Robison, March 2006.
[109] Alvin Detwiler to Captain King, October 13, 1947, in Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 67-68; Dorothy Twohig, *George Washington's Diaries, An Abridgement* (Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1999), 77.
[110] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture,* 74.
[111] Smith, *Centerville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 69

and a large shield-shaped fenced garden south of the house. It is possible this cultivated area is the vegetable garden referred to by Detwiler in his description earlier (*see figures 2-49 and 2-50*). The Spindle House is also clearly visible, but the Sedinger House does not appear on the 1937 aerial.

The New Deal Era, World War II, and Subsequent Suburban Development, 1937–1969

Between 1937 and 1946, William K. Ryan owned Mount Gilead. During his tenure, he enclosed the south porch with screens and constructed an ironwork fence around the property. A plat for division of the Mount Gilead property shows the W.K. Ryan lot marked out with stones around the current graveyard and reaching between Braddock Road and Mount Gilead Road or "the public road to Chantilly" as it was called in 1938. The plat showing William K. Ryan's property also shows the boundary along Mount Gilead of Walney Farm, at this time owned by the Lawrence family (*see figure 2-51*).[112]

Between 1946 and 1952, the property was owned by the King family. Photographs recently provided by the family to a member of the Historic Centreville Society board illustrate the property in 1948. First and foremost, the images convey the property's openness and commanding views of the surrounding area at the time. Also visible in the photographs are newly planted Southern magnolia trees along the entrance drive, white-painted rocks also edging the drive, and freshly-painted stone pillars marking the entrance from Mount Gilead Road. Chain-link fencing edges the pillars in either direction. It is not clear if the pillars, metal gate, and chain-link fencing visible in the photograph of the entrance drive are all new features. At a minimum, it is highly likely that the chain-link fencing is a new addition to the landscape at this time. The photographs appear to have been taken in early spring. Visible are flowering trees and shrubs, such as forsythia and saucer magnolia, and a well-developed garden space below the picket fence extending between the summerhouses. The Kings are shown, busy preparing the garden for spring planting. Also visible in the photographs are the cemetery surrounded by the ornamental metal fencing, and boxwood plantings near the house and along the fenceline (*see figures 2-52 through 2-58).*

In 1952, the property was sold to Frederick and Henrietta McIvor Winant. A plat shows the property extending to the abandoned road and to the Havener parcel fronting Braddock Road (*see figure 2-59*). The Winants owned the property until 1967. Local residents suggest that the Winants are the ones who installed the fish pond and rose garden in the 1950s (*see figure 2-60*). They are known to have been heavily involved in gardening, and the Rocky Run Garden Club was formed at Mount Gilead.[113] The Winants also altered the Mount Gilead House during their ownership, constructing additions on the eastern and western sides of the dwelling.[114] The Winants also may have added the

[112] Herndon *Observer*, April 21, 1938, "Mr. W.K. Ryan who recently purchased the historic McCrae house had added to the improvements by erecting an ornamental iron fence about the property." It is unclear at this point who the McCrae family referred to in this article were. FX DB F-13:62A.
[113] Personal communication, Rosalie Leigh to Debbie Robison, March 2006.
[114] FX DB 2963:411; Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 70.

grave stone identified for "Krista" in the 1960s, which marks the burial site of a family pet dog. Two photographs of the property from the 1960s illustrate its character at that time (*see figures 2-61 and 2-62*).

Nearby, activities that affected the Centreville landscape during this period included the addition of a German prisoner of war camp, known as Camp Washington, located near the intersection of Routes 50 and 29. According to oral history, Camp Washington housed approximately 100 prisoners during World War II and provided the local farmers with labor. There do not appear to be any extant remnants of the camp.[115]

In 1943, a developer purchased land that encompassed the Confederate fort at the intersection of Lee Highway and Old Centreville Road. After leveling the earthwork, he constructed Centreville's first shopping center.[116]

A two-and-one-half story wing addition was built on the Centreville Methodist Church from 1944–45, and new homes were constructed along Pickwick and Leland Roads, Summit and Shreve Streets, and Wharton Lane. Payne's Store, where residents shopped, was located on the corner of Lee Highway and Braddock Road.[117]

St. John's Episcopal Church was also altered when Walter Macomber—a local restoration architect who also worked at Oak Hill, an 18th century plantation house originally owned by the Fitzhugh family in Fairfax County—added a wood frame single-story parish hall constructed of cinder block in 1956-57. Walter Macomber worked on several historic homes in Fairfax County during the Colonial Revival period, including Mount Vernon and Green Spring Gardens. He was also employed as a restoration architect at Colonial Williamsburg and it is possible that Detwiler had conversations with Macomber during his trips to Williamsburg, which he said helped guide him in his rehabilitation of Mount Gilead.[118]

In the area around Centreville, the landscape began to change as new subdivisions were built to house those responding to new federal employment opportunities. The first was the "Ratcliffe subdivision of Centreville," established in 1938.[119] A ca. 1950s surge in the local population began a trend that would eventually end the viability of agriculture in Fairfax County, and transform it into a suburban commuter community for Washington, D.C. Due to its distance from the city, Centreville was at first spared the development that hit communities like Arlington and Falls Church (*see figure 2-63*).[120]

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[115] Mountain View High School Oral History Project, Fairfax County interview with Rita Koch, http://www.centrevilleva.org/index.cfm?action=a26&id=35,3397,48100001 (accessed September 20, 2005.)
[116] Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture*, 56.
[117] Carol Drake Friedman, "From Rural to Suburban," in *Centreville Centennial*, 16.
[118] Sherrie Chapman, "National Register Nomination for Green Spring Gardens" (Washington: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2003); also Smith, *Centreville, Virginia, its History and Architecture*, 69.
[119] FX DB B13:289.
[120] Carol Drake Friedman, "From Rural to Suburban," in *Centreville Centennial*, 16.

A 1953 aerial of Centreville provides clues about the physical character and configuration of the Mount Gilead property at that time. The property clearly extended further to the northwest, as illustrated by a fenceline located beyond the orthogonal form of the cemetery. The cemetery itself is clearly enclosed by a strong rectangular or square form, which is likely a combination of clipped evergreen shrubs and the iron fence. Southeast of the cemetery is open lawn dotted with vegetation, and the ca. 1937 entrance drive edged by an allée of trees. The driveway ends in a parking court similar to that which exists today, with the house and garage edging the court to its south. Below the house, the two summerhouses and picket fence are visible. A rectangular open area exists to the south of the fence. The abandoned road between the Mount Gilead House environs and the Spindle House property reads as a strong linear form, apparently edged by two fencelines. In addition to the extant Spindle House, the photograph indicates the existence of a second house on the property. The dwelling sits adjacent to Mount Gilead Road, just east of the abandoned road corridor. Later plats of the property refer to this parcel as owned by Todd and Melinda Swortzel. The outflow from the spring near the Spindle House appears as a strong linear element edged by some vegetation. This water course appears channelized in the photograph. The Sedinger House appears on the aerial near the former Adams tanyard site (*see figure 2-64).*

Encroaching Suburbanization and the Need to Protect Historic Centreville, 1969–2005

In 1986, a local historic overlay district was established at Centreville to protect the 19th century structures that remained. In 1990, archaeology was undertaken by the College of William and Mary for Dewberry and Davis, under the direction of Dennis B. Blanton and Joe B. Jones, as part of a Phase One cultural resource survey of the proposed routes 28/29 interchange project.[121] In July 1995, a supplemental cultural resources study was prepared by the Virginia Department of Transportation for the proposed Route 28/29 interchange. The study identified seven properties potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. These include the Harrison House, Havener House, Centreville Methodist Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, the Hardee Chambliss Law Office, #13938 Braddock Road, and Mount Gilead.[122]

The Fairfax County Park Authority's (Park Authority) Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section has undertaken various archaeological explorations since 1990. In August 1992, excavations were conducted at Buckey's Tanyard, across the street from the Havener House. No report was written but site files with extensive notes exist at the Park Authority's Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section offices in the James Lee Center. Excavations occurred in two phases, and several tanning pits were investigated. The foundation of the tannery house was discovered but appears to have been cleaned out and used after the Civil War because much of the material found was

[121] William and Mary Archaeological Project Center, "A Phase One Cultural Resource Survey of the Proposed Routes 28/29 Interchange Project, Fairfax County, Virginia" (Fairfax, VA: Dewberry and Davis, June 1990).

[122] Maral Kalbian and Loretta Lautzenheiser, "Phase I Cultural Resources Supplemental Study Proposed Routes 28/29 Interchange Project" (Richmond: Virginia Department of Transportation, July 1995).

from the 20th century. Most artifacts appear to be remnants from the sale of the Havener House, which had functioned as a hotel at one time, and included porcelain, pearlware, and predominantly utilitarian glassware. This site is recorded with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Along Mount Gilead Road, the Spindle House has been extensively tested but no units have yet been opened. Southwest of the Spindle House, one of the old tanyards has been excavated extensively. Field records of the excavations suggest that a circular turning pit was found lined with stone and containing a large number of Civil War artifacts, including a musket, epaulettes, and buttons, suggesting that the tanyard was left undisturbed after the Civil War.[123]

Excavations have also been conducted at Mount Gilead. The driveway median to the north of the house was excavated in an attempt to locate the foundation of the summer kitchen or office, as indicated in historic insurance papers. A brick foundation was uncovered that was likely the kitchen, although insurance records indicate that the building was constructed of wood and stone (*see figure 2-65*). Investigators speculated that a rectangular feature discovered appeared to be the remnants of a grave, but the only artifact found was a wood liner. Investigators speculated that the rectangular form could also have been a privy. A pergola type structure located at the end of one of the fences surrounding the property was found to rest on a large foundation of heavy stones. This was excavated but no further structure was found.[124]

Development has recently occurred outside the gates of Mount Gilead with the construction of a large housing complex. Despite community protests and attempts to save the large earthwork that extended from the lawn of Mount Gilead (*see figure 2-66*), the houses have irrevocably altered the setting to the northeast of Mount Gilead. Although the developers did preserve the earthwork, it is now located within a front yard area of a row of houses. Within the property, more recent physical changes include stabilization of the garage.

In 2005, as the future owners of Mount Gilead, the Park Authority engaged John Milner Associates, Inc., to prepare this Cultural Landscape Report to support their future management of this historic property. In 2006, oral history interviews with descendants of former residents identified the potential for two burial sites on the Spindle House property. These were being investigated by the Park Authority at the time this CLR was being completed.

[123] Centreville tanyard excavations are referred to in Fairfax County archaeology files as Blocks 1 through 5.

[124] Personal communication, Charles (CK) Gailey, long-time volunteer archaeologist at the Park Authority, to Jacky Taylor, JMA, August 10, 2005 and September 22, 2005.